

DAVENTRY BOROUGH COUNCIL

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THE ANNUAL REPORT OF THE  
MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH AND SANITARY INSPECTOR  
FOR THE YEAR

1943

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By:- C.T. Darwent, M.D., D.P.H.  
Medical Officer of Health.



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BOROUGH OF DAVENTRY

REPORT OF THE MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH FOR THE YEAR  
ENDING 31st DECEMBER 1943

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To the Mayor, Aldermen and Councillors of the Borough  
of Daventry.

Mr. Mayor, Aldermen and Councillors,

I have the honour to present on behalf of  
Dr. Leff (retired) the report on the health of your  
Borough for the year 1943.

I have the honour to be, gentlemen,

Your Obedient Servant,

C.T. DARWENT, L.R.C.P., L.R.C.S.,  
D.P.H.

Medical Officer of Health.

PUBLIC HEALTH OFFICERS OF THE BOROUGH

Medical Officer of Health

Dr. S. Leff, M.D. D.P.H.

also holds the appointments of:-

Asst. County Medical Officer of Health.

Asst. School Medical Officer.

Medical Officer of Health Brackley Borough

" " " " Brackley R.D.C.

" " " " Brixworth R.D.C.

" " " " Daventry R.D.C.

Medical Officer of the Child Welfare Clinics at  
Brackley, Brixworth, Moulton and Welford and the  
Antenatal Clinic at Middleton Cheney.

Sanitary Inspector

The duties of Sanitary Inspector are carried out  
by Mr. F. Bailey, A.R.San.I., M.S.I.A., Certificated  
Foods Inspector, Royal Sanitary Institute.

Mr. Bailey is also acting as Rate Collector and  
Valuation Officer etc. during the war.

SUMMARY OF VITAL STATISTICS 1942-43

Area (acres) 3,633

Population

1931 (Census)	3,608
1942	4,600 (estimated)
1943	3,793 (Registrar General's figures)

NUMBER OF INHABITED HOUSES

1942	1,088
1943	1,089

RATEABLE VALUE

1942	£25,945
1943	£26,242

PRODUCT OF PENNY RATE

1942	£102. 10. 0.
1943	£103. 6. 2.

HEALTH OF THE INHABITANTS

The health of the inhabitants has been good during the past year, only three cases of infectious disease were notified (excluding Tuberculosis)

LIVE BIRTHS

	Male		Female		Rate
	Total	25	30	29	
1942	Legitimate	23		29	13.8 per 1000 of estimated population
55	Illegitimate	2		1	

	Male		Female		Rate
	Total	24	29	28	
1943	Legitimate	24		28	13.9 per 1000 of estimated population
53	Illegitimate	-		1	

England & Wales 16.5

STILL BIRTHS

1942

Nil

1943

2

	Male	Female	Rate
Total	1	1	
Legitimate	-	1	
Illegitimate	1	-	(Live & Still) Births

England & Wales 0.54

DEATHS

	Total	Male	Female		
1942	41	24	17	<u>Rate</u>	10.3
1943	50	32	20	<u>Rate</u>	13.2

England &amp; Wales 12.1

DEATH RATE OF INFANTS UNDER ONE YEAR OF AGE

All infants per 1000 Live Births	Rate 37.7
Legitimate infants per 1000, Legitimate Live Births	38.4
Illegitimate infants per 1000 Illegitimate Live Births	NIL

MORTALITY FROM DIFFERENT CAUSES

The mortality from different causes during the year 1943 is as follows:-

	Males	Females
Respiratory Tuberculosis	3	-
Other Tuberculosis	1	-
Influenza	1	3
Cancer of Stomach etc.	2	-
Cancer of the Breast	-	2
Cancer of all other sites	2	1
Diabetes	1	-
Intercranial vascular lesions	1	1
Heart diseases	7	6
Bronchitis	5	3
Pneumonia	1	-
Ulcer of Stomach or Duodenum	1	-
Nephritis	2	2
Road Traffic Accidents	1	-
Other violent Causes ~	1	1
All other causes	3	1
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	32	20
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INFANT WELFARE AND NURSING FACILITIES

There is a Child Welfare Centre in the Town at Foundry Place Schools on the second and fourth Tuesday of the month from 2 p.m. to 4 p.m. The Doctor attends on the fourth Tuesday of each month and children can be immunised on this day. This and the Health Visiting are under the supervision of the County Council.

The District Nursing arrangements, which are maintained by Voluntary Contributions, are managed by a Local Committee. This Committee is affiliated to the Northamptonshire County Nursing Association.

INFECTIOUS DISEASES NOTIFIED DURING 1943 (excluding Tuberculosis)

Scarlet Fever	1
Measles	2

NEW CASES OF TUBERCULOSIS 1943

Age Period	Respiratory		Non-respiratory	
	Male	Female	Male	Female
0 to 1 yr.	-	-	-	-
1 to 5 yrs.	-	-	-	-
5 to 15 "	-	-	-	1
15 to 25 "	-	2	-	-
25 to 35 "	-	-	-	1
35 to 45 "	1	-	-	-
45 to 55 "	-	-	-	-
55 to 65 "	1	-	-	-
65 & over	-	-	-	-
Total	6	2	2	2

DEATHS FROM TUBERCULOSIS

Age Period	Respiratory		Non-respiratory	
	Male	Female	Male	Female
0 to 1 yr.	-	-	-	-
1 to 5 yrs.	-	-	-	-
5 to 15 "	-	-	-	-
15 to 25 "	-	-	-	-
25 to 35 "	2	-	-	-
35 to 45 "	-	-	1	-
45 to 55 "	-	-	-	-
55 to 65 "	1	-	-	-
65 & over	-	-	-	-
Total	4	3	1	-

No case of Diphtheria occurred during the year.

No case of Small Pox, Enteric Fever or Ophthalmic Neuritorum occurred in the Borough during the year.

In all cases of Infectious Sickness, the homes are visited, all requisite enquiries made and disinfection is carried out.

The bedding is always destroyed after a death from Tuberculosis or Cancer, and the owners compensated for the loss.

Infectious Disease cases, where necessary, are removed to the Western Joint Hospital Board's Infectious Hospital at Staverton.

Tuberculosis cases where suitable are received at Rushden Sanitorium or at the Manfield Hospital.

For non-infectious illnesses the Northampton General Hospital or the Hospital of St. Cross, Rugby, are usually used by the inhabitants of the Town.

A St. John's motor ambulance is kept in the town to convey patients to either of these premises.

#### DIPHTHERIA IMMUNISATION

Number of children who completed the full course of immunisation during 1943

Percentage of population considered immunised at 31st December 1943

Under 5	Over 5 but under 15
87	65

Under 5	5 to 15
59	90

Children are immunised at the Infant Welfare Centre on the fourth Tuesday of each month and at the School Medical Inspection sessions at the Schools.

Application for immunisation should be made to the Health Visitor, Nurse Waugh, Long Buckby, Rugby, or to the Medical Officer of Health or Sanitary Inspector at the Moot Hall, Daventry.

#### SCABIES '943

There were 13 cases notified during the year, 6 were removed to the Public Assistance Institution for treatment. The remaining ~~three~~ seven were treated at home.

Cases are treated at home under the supervision of their Doctor and/or the Health Visitor, or removed to Hospital when facilities for treatment are not available at home.

All bedding is removed to the Public Assistance Institution and passed through the steam disinfecter, the rooms at home are disinfected.

#### WATER SUPPLY

The Water Supply of the houses is from the Town supply. All water before entering the mains is softened by the Sofnol process and chlorinated. Samples are taken at frequent intervals and no unsatisfactory reports were received during the year.

#### SEWERAGE

All houses in the Borough with the exception of a few outlying ones, and the houses on the West side of the Bypass on the Badby Road are connected to the sewer.

## SEWERAGE (continued)

It is impossible to connect the last-mentioned houses to the existing sewer as they are too low. Each is therefore provided with a septic tank. These generally prove satisfactory, but three during the year gave some trouble through faulty construction. This was remedied and they are now working satisfactorily.

## HOUSING

Total number of dwellinghouses inspected for housing defects under Public Health or Housing Acts. 138

Number of inspections made for the purpose 233

Number of dwellinghouses found not to be in all respects reasonably fit 95

Number remedied by service of Preliminary Notice 126

Number remedied after service of Statutory Notice 12

## Public Health Acts.

Number of dwellinghouses in respect of which notices were served. 15

Number where defects were remedied by Owner. 15

Number of separate tenements in respect of which Closing Orders were determined after being made fit. -

## OVERCROWDING

As this is a reception area and a considerable number of Evacuees were brought into the Town, a certain amount of overcrowding took place.

A few houses are still overcrowded, but the matter will be remedied when it is possible to build more houses.

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During the year, number of drains blocked and later cleaned 43

New W. C. pans fitted 14

Flushes repaired 18

There is considerable difficulty in getting repairs carried out owing to shortage of labour and building material.

## FOOD

During the year the following food has been surrendered as being unfit:-

70 lbs of Cod Fillets.  
29 lbs of Bacon

The following tins of food were badly blown or defective and the contents were unfit for human consumption. The tins were surrendered and destroyed.

7 X 6lb tins of Pork Luncheon Meat.  
10 X 1½lb tins of Pork Sausage Meat.  
1 tin of Lambs tongue.  
1 tin of Ox tongue.  
60 X 2½lbs of Plums  
22 X 1¼ oz. tins of Evaporated Milk.  
4 tins Pilchards  
5 tins Quick Meals  
2 tins Rabbit  
2 tins Beans  
2 tins Peas  
1 tin Prim  
1 tin Irish Stew  
10 Jars of Jam  
34 tins of Meat & Fish etc.

#### MILK SAMPLES

During the year 15 samples of raw milk and 8 of Pasteurised Milk were taken and forwarded to Northampton for examination.

The results were very disappointing. Of the raw Milk seven were returned as good, three as moderate and four as bad. Of the Pasteurised all were satisfactory.

Two of the four samples of raw milk returned as bad were produced outside the Borough.

On receipt of a bad report, the premises where the milk was produced in the Borough, are visited at once. If produced outside the Borough, the matter is brought to the notice of the Sanitary Inspector of the district where the milk is produced.

In most instances it was found the unsatisfactory samples were the result of the milk being insufficiently cooled.

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All Bakehouses, Butchers' Shops and premises where food is prepared, Cowsheds and Dairies, are visited at frequent intervals and are generally found to be in a satisfactory state.

